

George Wells Knight House

Herrick Archives Building 961

A. IDENTIFICATION & LOCATION

1. Name

1.1 It was voted by Board of Trustess on February 13, 1950 that this property be entered on the books of The Ohio State University as the "George Wells Knight House. "

1.2 Numerous other names have been noted, as follows:

1.2.1 The first year the house was in operation, Dean of Men Joseph A. Park referred to it as the "George Wells Knight International House." (H) The corporate name of the group which operated the house under lease from the First Congregational Church from 1938 to 1950 was "George Wells Knight International House." (Archives Box 3/h/31)

1.2.2 Drawings made in 1963 and 1964 for enlarging and remodeling the house use the name "George Wells Knight International Student Center" and indicate that this name lettered on the transom over the front door (P).

1.2.3 On April 8, 1965 the Board of Trustees accepted a \$5,000 gift from the Columbus Rotary Club for the "International House Building Fund. "

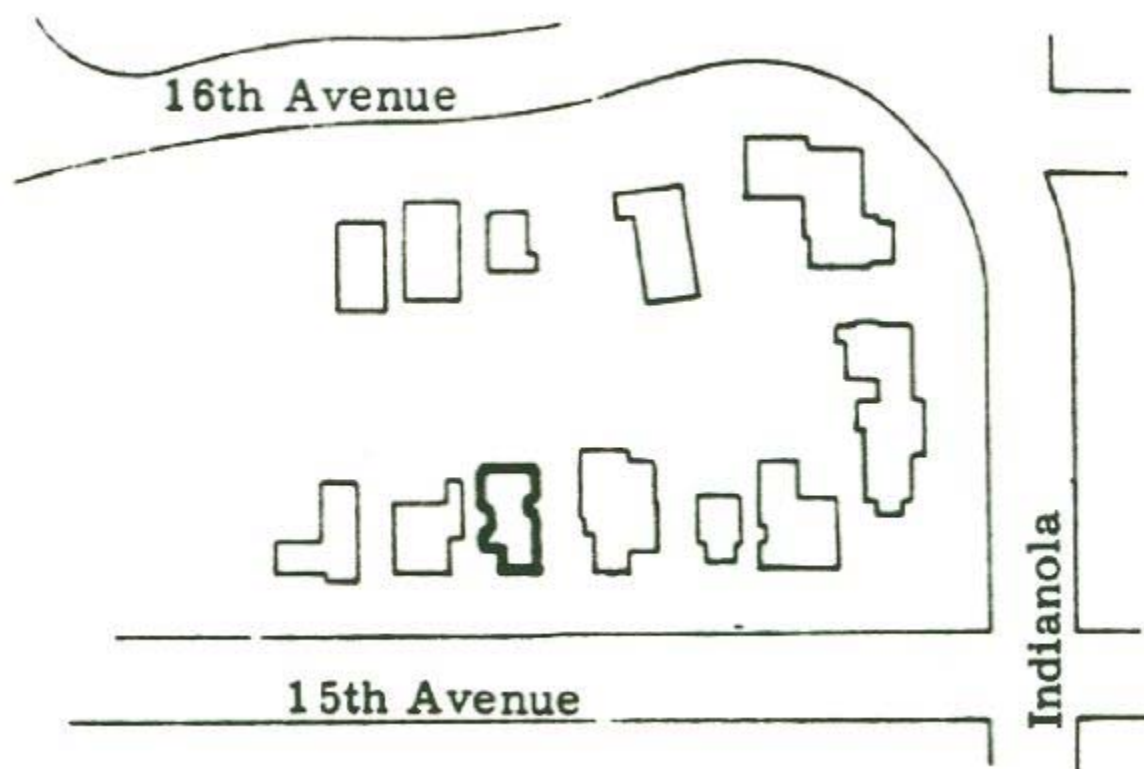
1.2.4 Campus Planning records use the name "International House for Men (George Wells Knight)" (P).

1.2.5 Business Office reports carry the name "George Wells Knight House. "

1.2.6 An on site inSpection by the author on August 10, 1971 reveals that there is no lettering over the transom and that there is a standard University building name plaque bearing the words "International Student Center and George Wells Knight International Student House. "

2. Location:

2.1 Located at 104 East 15th Avenue. See map below.



3. General Description

3.1 Type of construction:

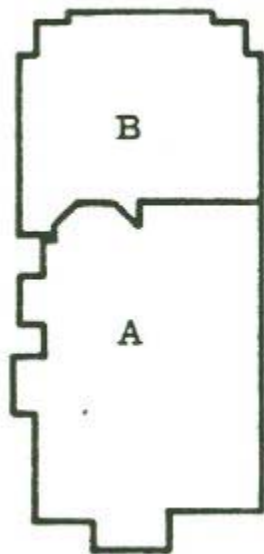
Wood frame with brick exterior.

3.2 No. of stories:

Basement and three stories.

3.3 Increments of construction:

Building has been enlarged once. See sketch.



A--original building

B--addition

3.4 Present area of building as shown in inventory records of Division of Campus Planning:

8,233 sq. ft. gross;

7,918 sq. ft. net assignable

B. SIGNIFICANT DATES

1. The house is first listed in the 1913 City Directory, the canvass for which was completed sometime after April 14. It appears, therefore, that the house was constructed between April 1912 and April 1913. Professor Knight is listed as the occupant in 1913.

See Addendum No. 1

2. Professor Knight died February 10, 1932 (T 5/9/32). Since he died intestate, the property was transferred by probate court order to his widow, Mariette, and his daughter, Margaret, on March 23, 1932 (Deed Book, Vol. 967, p. 338).

3. The property was given to the First Congregational Church of Columbus, Ohio by Mariette and Margaret Knight on October 1, 1937 (Deed Book, Vol. 1072, p. 243).

4. Assistant Dean of Men Frederick Stecker and his bride of six months moved into the house in October 1937 to prepare the house for use as a place of residence for international students. They borrowed and solicited gifts of furniture, and were ready to open by Winter Quarter. (This information provided by Mr. Stecker.)

5. In January 1938 the George Wells Knight International House began operations. The institution had no organic connection with the University, but it served University students, its director was Assistant Dean of Men Stecker, and its directing board included Dean Joseph A. Parks, Secretary and Business Manager Carl Steeb, and Professor [Harold W.] Bibber (H).

6. By deed dated December 21, 1949 the First Congregational Church gave the property to the State of Ohio for use by Ohio State University (Deed Book, Vol. 1534, p. 440).

7. The Board of Trustees on April 17, 1964 approved plans prepared by Tibbals, Crumley and Musson for an

addition and alterations to the building. Bids were received On September 17 and September 23, 1964 (T) and on October 9, 1964 the Board awarded contracts to the following contractors:

General: Joe Potter

Electrical: Jess Howard Electric Co.

On April 15, 1965 the University Architect reported that the project was "substantially completed and ready for occupancy." (P)

C. COST

1. By action of the Board of Trustees on February 13, 1950, this property which came to the University as a gift, was entered on the books at a valuation of \$15,000.00.
2. Between July 1, 1964 and June 30, 1966, when the building was enlarged and remodeled, the value shown on the books increased by \$57,064.21 to a new total of \$72,064.21.
3. Subsequent additions and deletions brought the June 30, 1971 total to \$69,678.50.

D. MISCELLANEOUS

The building has been used by the University only as a residence for international students.

E. PHOTOGRAPHS

1. In Photoarchives:

X 7610

John H. Herrick
April 10, 1973

ADDENDUM NO. 1

The first listing of Professor Knight in the University Directory at this location was in the 1912-13 edition. In the 1911-12 edition he was listed as living at the Hotel Lincoln.

John H. Herrick
February 4, 1976